

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 24,  
bridging page 3, as follows:

A1 In accordance with the present invention, in a method of improving the transmission characteristic of an xDSL system that implements high-speed data communication over existing copper wires connecting an office and a subscriber, a testing system installed in an office ~~pulls~~ polls, before the connection of a subscriber line to the xDSL system, the subscriber line at the outside line of an xDSL circuit, measures the cross-talk noise characteristic of the subscriber line, and prevents, if the cross-talk noise characteristic is of high level, the subscriber line from being connected to the xDSL circuit.

Page 3, replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 as follows:

A2 Also, in accordance with the present invention, a system for measuring the transmission characteristic of an xDSL system that implements high-speed data communication over existing copper wires connecting an office and a subscriber includes a ~~pulling~~ polling device included in the outside line of an xDSL circuit, which is installed in an office, for ~~pulling~~ polling a subscriber line. A noise level measuring circuit measures the level of cross-talk noise on the subscriber line. A decision circuit

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determines, based on the level of cross-talk noise measured, whether or not the subscriber line is usable.

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Page 5, replace the paragraph beginning on line 25, bridging page 6, as follows:

As stated above, the illustrative embodiment pays attention to the fact that the frequency bands of various xDSL systems partly overlap each other, as shown in FIG. 1. Before connection of a subscriber line to the xDSL system, the testing system installed in an office pulls polls the subscriber line via the relays 12 connected to the outside line of an xDSL channel. The testing system then measures a noise level on the subscriber line, i.e., a cross-talk noise characteristic in the overlapping frequency range.

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